

In-Fur-Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 16, Number 1

All The News We Get, We Print!

Winter, 2005



< Image c. 2004, Cartoon Network >

"Hippity Hoppity, Hippity Hoppity! My tail is quite fluffy, my ears quite floppy! I dance and I sing and you can't make me stoppity!" – Mr. Herriman, rabbit, to Mrs. Foster on Cartoon Network's *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends*.

A brand new year, and it's time for... movie shuffleboard? Check out the latest furry news, dear adventurer, and we'll try to get you caught up...

At this point it looks certain that *Shrek 2* from Dreamworks Animation is not only the number one animated film for 2004, but the number one box office champ of all movies in 2004. Which makes the news about the upcoming *Shrek 3* all the more interesting. Read on, and be patient – This gets complicated...

< From *The Hollywood Reporter*, Dec. 08, 2004: > In a move that could better position Pixar Animation Studios in its upcoming negotiations with potential distribution partners, the Emeryville, Calif.-based studio said Tuesday that its upcoming film *Cars* will be postponed from its planned November release to a June 2006 bow. The announcement was made jointly with Pixar's current partner, Walt Disney Pictures. The date change immediately triggered a flurry of other moves as Disney's Buena Vista Distribution arm shifted its CG-animated feature *Chicken Little* from a summer slot to Nov. 4. Sony Pictures also chose to move its upcoming *Legend of Zorro* from a late September slot to a November date. Pixar and Disney explained that moving *Cars* to June 9, 2006, would allow them to take full advantage of the large summer movie going audience, followed by the lucrative holiday DVD market. Pixar CEO Steve Jobs has spoken previously of wanting to shift Pixar's release schedules to take advantage of the summer movie going/holiday DVD sales dynamic.

< From *E! On-Line*, Dec. 09, 2004: > Bad news for Shrek fans—a certain green ogre will not be emerging from his swamp anytime in the near future. On the heels of Pixar and Disney's decision to push back the release of *Cars* from November 2005 to June 2006, DreamWorks announced Wednesday that *Shrek 3* would be postponed from a November 2006 opening to May 2007. Both animation companies indicated that the changes in the release dates of the family-friendly flicks meshed better with the schedules of their target audiences—namely kiddies, who are out of school in the summer and therefore have more free time to take in a movie. Rolling back the release date also means that the *Shrek 3* DVD (complete with the inevitable added features) will come out right in time for holiday gift shopping.

< From www.suite101.com: > So that they don't have to compete at the box office with Peter Jackson's *King Kong* remake, Walt Disney Pictures has moved the release of their live action feature *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. According to IGN FilmForce, the film's release date is now set to be December 9, 2005. *King Kong* opens December 14, 2005.

< More interesting news from www.suite101.com: > Alumni of Pasadena's world famous Art Center College Of Design have created Snaut Entertainment, an LA-based company providing extensive creative services for the industry. Among these services are film development, and Disney has hired the company to develop CG films based on *The Wind In The Willows*. This film, to be directed by Guillermo Del-Toro (*Hellboy*), will actually be the second Disney feature to be based on the tale. A featurette based on the tale was made in the 1940s, and included in the feature *Ichabod and Mr. Toad*. Snaut is also developing *The Little Prince* for a movie company called Pathe Distribution.

From the Out Of Nowhere Department: Heard about *Racing Stripes*? No, us neither. This new live-action film snuck up on us – the publicity for it only really kicked into gear in November. Anyway, *Racing Stripes* follows the story of a circus zebra who's abandoned as a colt. Raised by a human teenage girl – who names him "Stripes", of course – our hero dreams of growing up to be a racehorse. And we know because he tells us – yes, shades of Babe, the barnyard animals all talk in this film, at least to each other. And quite the list of voice actors too: Frankie Muniz (*Malcolm in the Middle*) as Stripes, Mandy Moore, Dustin Hoffman, Whoopi Goldberg, Michael Clarke Duncan, Jeff Foxworthy, Steve Harvey, David Spade, Joe Pantoliano, and Snoopy Dogg (as, you guessed it, a dog). The film was directed by Frederik Du Chau (*Quest for Camelot*), and it hits the starting gate on January 14th.

Currently in production in Britain is *The Water Warriors* from Silver Fox Films. The story goes like this: "A mighty alien empire sends their greatest, most fearsome warship on a mission to conquer the planet Earth... with one hitch. Misjudging the dimensions of the planet, when the (tiny) aliens land in an English pond, they take the frogs (and other amphibians) that live there to be indicative of life on the planet, and our only hope at that. Soon, the two sides are engaged in a solid alien-vs.-amphibian battle for the sake of Earth, or at least, someone's backyard in England. It sounds a bit like a cross between *Wind in the Willows* and *Micronauts*" (from Greg's Previews at Yahoo! Movies). This CGI feature film, written and directed by **Graham Ralph**, features the voices of **Patrick Stewart**, **Stephen Fry**, and **Miriam Margolyes**. It's currently set for release in the spring of 2005.



< Image c. 2005, The Disney Channel >

Dragons are invading your television! This January, watch for the new animated TV series *American Dragon – Jake Long* on the Disney Channel. Jake Long is, seemingly, your typical Asian-American teen living and going to school in New York City – he just happens to also be a Chinese dragon in disguise. It turns out that there are whole societies of fantastic creatures (centaurs, mermaids, gargoyles (wink) and etc.) living in the city, just out of human sight. And the dragons are charged with protecting the lot of them from the Forces of Darkness. Unfortunately, the forces of darkness are more than willing to jump at the chance to catch a young and inexperienced dragon off his guard. It's up to the elder dragon (Jake's grandfather) and an 800-year-old talking dog/dragon trainer to teach Jake all that he needs to know. And meanwhile, there's this thing called High School... Look for it all on Disney Channel starting January 14.

More dragons for your TV: The folks who brought you *Walking with Dinosaurs* and *Walking with Prehistoric Beasts* now bring you something completely different. In *Dragons: A Fantasy Made Real*, the magic of CGI is used to create a natural history of dragons (mostly the European sort) based on the idea that they were once real creatures. It all takes

place starting March 20th on Animal Planet. For more information, visit www.dragonsarecoming.com.

The next big Special Edition DVD release on the horizon is the *Bambi 2-Disc Special Edition*, coming soon from Buena Vista Home Entertainment. Besides featuring the original 1942 film with digitally enhanced picture and sound, the new 2-disc set includes a making of documentary, never-before-seen deleted sequences, and a preview of the upcoming *Bambi II* – which, according to what we've heard, may actually not be 3D CGI.

The Boy Who Wanted to be a Bear: Now there's a title we're going to notice, wouldn't you say? It's the title of a new direct-to-DVD animated film created by Les Armateurs (the folks who brought us *The Triplets of Belleville*). A mother bear's cub dies in the arctic wild, and her mate steals a human boy to be their son. When, years later, the boy's human father arrives to take him back, the child must choose his own destiny: Human, or bear? The DVD is coming this February from Central Park Media.

Celebrated anime director **Hayao Miyazaki** (*Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro*) returns to the small screen with the 2-disc DVD release of *The Cat Returns* Special Edition. A young girl saves a cat's life, and is rewarded by with a proposal of marriage – from the son of the King of Cats! Coming this February, look for it from Buena Vista Home Entertainment.

According to the official Dreamworks Animation Fan Site, all 13 episodes of the single season of *Father of the Pride* will be released on DVD, with "lots of extras", in late 2005 (<http://animation.dreamworksfansite.com/fatherofthepride>). Currently Dreamworks is hoping to release it around Thanksgiving.

Platypus Rex is the name of a new full-color comic books series by **Quentin Shaw** and **Mark Brill**, published by Committed Comics. From their web site (www.committedcomics.com): "Rex is a vampire hunter. He has sworn to rid the earth of the dark and mysterious monsters who roam the night. Aided by his trusted friend, 'Brick' he will stop at nothing to make the world safe for all Platypus, oh yeah and for humans too." Right on brother.

In the "How did we miss THIS one?" category: *Lions, Tigers, and Bears* is a new four-issue full-color miniseries from Image Comics, written by **Mike Bullock** and illustrated by **Jack Lawrence**. Young Joey Price discovers that his stuffed animal friends – like all such toys everywhere – are in fact magical creatures charged with protecting children. Trouble is, their job just got a lot harder: Evil plush monsters are on the prowl, looking to destroy young children's minds wherever they find them. The series is on the shelves now.

Now how's this for a story? Young Aaron is a 14-year-old boy living in San Francisco's Chinatown, who's never gotten along well in school. He's always felt different. Only now he's learned just how different: He's a dragon, the youngest of an ancient race. And a race that's been battling a secret cabal of wizards for many centuries. (Now is it just us, or does this story sound amazingly similar to the story for *American Dragon – Jake Long*? Go figure.) Anyway, *Dragon Prince*, the new full-color five-issue miniseries from Dark Horse Press (from writer **Ron Marz** (*Star Wars: Empire*) and artist **Jeff Johnson** (*Way of the Rat*)) premieres this February.

Also this February, look for the premiere issue of *Lullaby: Wisdom Seeker* from Image Comics, written by **Mike S. Miller** and illustrated (in full color) by **Hector Sevilla**. Join Alice (from Wonderland), Jim Hawkins, the Pied Piper, Pinocchio, and Little Red Riding Hood (who's half-wolf in this story!) as they try to stop the dark forces warping their world.

More all-ages fun coming in February: After a hiatus of nearly 10 years, the Penguin Brothers return in *The Penguin Brothers* trade paperback, written and illustrated by **Josh Blaylock**. Three teenage penguins are granted super powers to protect their home of Chill City, Antarctica. Trouble is, they'd rather chase girls and play video games than be superheroes! It's 144 pages, in black and white, from Devil's Due Publishing.

And speaking of penguins... Look for the *Penguins on Ice* graphic novel, written and illustrated by **Sergio Salma** and published (in full color) by iBooks. Life in a penguin colony is hard – How do you find your parents or your true love when everybody looks alike? That and those pesky ice breakers coming through...

Not for all ages... *Mora* is... the story of the most powerful and ruthless witch in the world, and of the humans and animal-people who must unite to end her reign. *Mora* is... a dark fairy tale, coming bi-monthly in black & white, written and illustrated by **Paul Harmon**. *Mora* is... previewed in the back pages of *Tales of Tello* #3. *Mora* is... coming from Image Comics in early February.

Try this: *Jerk the Rabbit*, written and illustrated by **Hector Lopez**. From *Previews Magazine*: "What happens when an alien race decides to take over the universe by creating the ultimate demolition? In this first issue Jerk is reborn, but with certain differences. He is no longer what he was, a cute fluffy little rabbit. For he is now a creation from an experiment gone wrong." You read it here folks. Coming soon in black & white from Grizzly Books and Comics. Also, the complete *Bone* saga (more than 1,300 pages!) by **Jeff Smith** will be available in a limited edition paperback this February from Cartoon Books. Featuring never-before-seen pages from the popular black & white fantasy adventure comic, the paperback edition will only be available for a short time and will not be reprinted – or so they tell us.

The description for the full-color graphic novel *Neferu the Cat* (by **Carlos Trillo** and **Peni**) reads like this: "Pinon, the evil, slobbering dog has moved in on Neferu the cat's territory, hypnotizing his slave and mesmerizing Neferu's mascot, the human Alex. Only the intervention of the goddess Bastet and the great cat god Tefnut can save the world from certain canine domination." You heard 'em! Coming soon in hardcover from SAF Comics.

Over at Shanda Fantasy Arts, look for the premier issue of *Mudpie*, a new black & white comic written and illustrated by **Guy Gilchrist** (cartoonist for the current *Nancy* comic strip). *Mudpie* is a 14-year-old cat who spends all day in his dream world, imagining himself as heroes like Secret Agent O-O-Cool or an alien hunter from the Yechs Files. He needs the help of his guardian angel – a winged mouse – to keep his paws on the ground. Don't forget, SFA is also the new home of *Albedo Anthropomorphics*, **Steve Gallacci's** genre-defining furry space adventure comic. And coming soon, Shanda is offering both issues of the *Furry Ninja High School* miniseries (with covers by **Joe Staton** and **Ernie Colon**) as a 2-pack set.

This March, look for the premiere issue of *Otherworld* from Vertigo Comics, written and illustrated in full color by **Phil Jimenez** (with help from **Andy Lanning**). Otherworld, a land of mythical beings and beasts, is forever at war with a land of pure technology. The balance of power is suddenly upset when a group of humans from earth are kidnapped, given superpowers, and thrust into the middle of the battle.

Okay, try to follow along here: In the new black & white comic book series *Pigtale*, we meet one Boston Booth, a human private detective. Boston hooks up with a guy named Clyde – who happens to be a talking pig. Together Boston and Clyde must work to save their hometown of Portland from the evil schemes of a Big Bad Wolf named Tax – who happens to be Clyde's stepbrother. Got it? Good. It's coming this March from Image Comics, written and illustrated by **Ovi Nedelcu**.

Invader Zim creator **Jhonen Vasquez** returns with a new black & white collection, *Filler Bunny #3: My Worst Book Yet!* Billed as "The book no one asked for! If Filler Bunny doesn't assault your sensibilities, he simply hasn't found out about you – yet." From Slave Labor Graphics, of course.

Space Sheriff and *Happy Space Boy* is the name of a black & white SF/comedy comic book series from Data Red Publishing, written and illustrated by **Justin Cermak**. *Space Sheriff* (a roughly feline adventurer) and his crew travel the galaxy seeking adventure – and accidentally destroying everything in their path. Look for it this March.

Also in March comes the premier of *The Grimoire* from Speakeasy Comics, written by **Sebastian Ciasse** and illustrated (in full color) by **Dijef**. When the young human girl Amandine inherits an ancient book of spells, she suddenly finds herself surrounded by magical creatures and talking animals – all out to help her defeat the forces of evil magic!

From Top Shelf Productions, **Andy Runton** returns with another trade paperback collection of black & white *Owl* strips, titled *Owl: Just A Little Blue*. Little Owl and his friends – who speak in pictures and concepts, not words – discover the meaning of words like loneliness, sacrifice, and above all, friendship.

Oh look Ma, it's a comic-book adaptation of *Journey to the West*, aka *The Adventures of the Monkey King*. Okay, sorry to sound cynical folks, but oh DEAR have there been a lot of adaptations of that story – in fiction, comics, and animation, for literally centuries. Anyway, this new full-color version, *The Monkey King*, features the writing and art of **Katsuya Terada** – designer of the anime *Blood: The Last Vampire*. The baddest ape in all of ancient China raised holy hell with humans and gods alike – until Buddha dropped a mountain on top of him! The Portland Tribune calls the comic "a Buddhist version of *Conan the Barbarian*". It comes to us in April from Dark Horse Press.

Berke Breathed celebrates the 25th anniversary of *Bloom County* with *Opus: 25 Years of His Sunday Best*. This hardcover collection features Sunday color strips from all across the history of *Bloom County* and *Outland*, as well as never-before-seen comics and drawings. It's available from Little, Brown Publishers.

Two dark, spooky animal-based short stories by Neil Gaiman have been adapted in comic book format by illustrator Michael Zulli for *Creatures of the Night*, a new full-color hardcover from Dark Horse Press. In "The Price", a man discovers that what his pet black cat is battling every night is far worse than he'd ever imagined. And in "The Daughter of Owls", a young girl is left as a babe on a church doorstep – with only an owl pellet as a clue to her history. But she too is more than anyone had expected.

The popular series *How to Draw Manga* from Graphic-Sha Publishing expands yet again with two new titles of note: *Animals*, and *Super-Deformed Characters 2 – Animals*. Fans of *Hamtaro* and other chibi characters can rejoice!

"...said Funny Bunny, to Sweet Little Girl!" – Mr. Herriman, rabbit, to Mrs. Foster on Cartoon Network's *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends*.

Furry Stuff has ConFurence Stuff! The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurences 0 – 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furrystuff.com to find out more – soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by Eric Schwartz from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by Rachael Cawley from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by Ken Sample from CF10. Plus, a very few of Mitch Beiro's colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the brand new *ConFurence Eight – Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine – Furries in Love* highlights videos too! And coming soon, a special combination video from CF5 and CF6! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

Help us keep up with you! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my **Subscription to In-Fur-Nation**? We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even more of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's now brought right to your doorstep **four** times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the "zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to it's full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for free!

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of In-Fur-Nation each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! As an *alternate*: Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to furry animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or, you can e-mail your submission to Rod O'Reilly at mink@firstlight.net.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to mink@firstlight.net.

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

More Furry Conventions All Around!

Furry Weekend Atlanta

February 11th thru 13th, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, USA

FWA welcomes Special Guest Artists **Jessie T. Wolf** and **Fel**. Plus an appearance by **2, the Ranting Gryphon**, a special screening of *Kaze, Ghost Warrior*, and other special furry events.

FWA 2005 will be held at the Holiday Inn Atlanta-Airport-North (1380 Virginia Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30344). The phone number is (404) 762-8411. Just mention "Furry Weekend" for a special room rate of only **\$62.00** a night!

Memberships at FWA2005 come in several levels, the most basic being an Attending Membership for **\$40.00**. Supporting (non-attending) Memberships are also available for **\$15.00**, and various levels of Sponsorship are available too. Check the FWA web site at www.furryweekend.com for more information, or to download a registration pdf file. The Dealers Den has sold out, but room is still available in the Art Show!

Megaplex 4

Let's hit the road, and travel down the middle of the Sunshine State. Along Interstate 4, and right next door to Sea World, we will experience MEGAPLEX 4! March 11 - 13, 2005. Megaplex 4 will be held at the Sheraton World Resort, 10100 International Drive Orlando, FL 32821. Rooms have been negotiated for **\$99.00** a night (plus 6.5% state sales tax and 5% occupancy tax). For Reservations, call (800) 327-0363 and use reservation code: MEGAPLEX. Resort services include Transportation to Walt Disney World Theme Parks and the Florida Mall. Sea World is within walking distance of the Hotel, and there is a nominal \$6 fee for transportation to Universal Studios.

To find out more information on memberships and Special Guests (as they get it), visit the Megaplex web site at <http://ppmp.info>. Important note: The deadline for submitting works to the Megaplex Souvenir Book has been extended until February 10, 2005. [Check the web site for information on submission formats.]



< Image c. 2005, Morphonicon >

Morphicon 2005

May 6 - 8, 2005. Morphonicon's theme for 2005 is "growing pains!" Come help us celebrate many kinds of "growth" in the fandom: the personal, the physical, the social, and the spiritual. Morphonicon is an anthropomorphic (or "furry") convention located in the central Ohio area. We have programming planned for three full days, including a masquerade, a variety show, a dance, discussion panels, food events, and room for dealers and artists.

Morphicon 2005's Special Guests include: **Carole and Mike Curtis** (authors and publishers of fine anthropomorphic fiction), **Ken Sample** (popular macro-furry artist and owner

of Puma Paw Graphics), and **Lisa Sample** (artist, game developer on "Inherit the Earth", and Khromat creator).

Please note! Our 2005 date and hotel changed since our initial flyers at Anthrocon [2004]. Check to be sure you have the right date and hotel for the convention! The con will be held May 6 - May 8, 2005, at the Radisson Hotel Columbus-Worthington, 7007 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43085. Ohio Morphonicon has a secured a block of double-queen rooms for **\$89.00** per night. To reserve a room, call the Radisson directly at 614-436-0700, or fax them at 614-436-5318. You may also call the central office at 1-800-333-3333. Whichever route you go, you must ask for the Morphonicon room rate (room block MO-005). The room rate is guaranteed only through April 22nd. Please plan ahead and reserve your room early.

Full Registration to Morphonicon is available for only **\$29.00**, if received by the pre-registration deadline (March 1, 2005). After that, Full Registration is **\$35.00** at the door. Sponsor memberships are available for **\$45.00**, and Patron memberships for **\$85.00**, again before March 1 - they both go up at the door. Check out the web site at www.morphicon.org for more information about memberships and benefits.

Mephit Mini-Con 8

Planning a trip to Europe this spring? Look for the Mephit Mini-Con at the Loreley, in the Rhinevalley, near Sankt Goarshausen in Germany, May 19 - 22. Featuring a Dealers' Den, Video Show, Barbecue, Fur Dance, Art Show, Fur Suit Walk event, and Special Interest Group discussions.

Membership (with lodging included) is **88 Euros** if received before March 31, 2005, and **100 Euros** at the door. Day passes will be sold for **20 Euros** (no lodging). Visit them at http://mmc.furcon.de/mmc8_final for more information.

Califur One

If, on the other paw, you'll be in the states that weekend, come on down and check out the newest Furry Convention in Southern California! With a theme of Welcome to the Islands, Califur One presents a look at (and celebration of) furries in the tropics - as inhabitants, or just as tourists! In a circular bit of history, Califur One will be taking place at the Holiday Inn Costa Mesa - which was formerly the Holiday Inn Bristol Plaza, the home of ConFurence Zero and One, where this furry fandom thing first got a move on. And the dates? May 20 - 22, 2005.

The Special Guest list for Califur One (so far) includes the return of **2 (The Ranting Gryphon!)** as our toastmaster and MC and all-around cool guy, **Brian Wear** as our Artist Guest, and furry fandom originator **Ken Fletcher** as a very Special Guest. Ken, of course, was one of the instigators of *Spontoon Islands* - a long-running fanzine series of furry stories, art, and comics set on a mythical island chain in the Pacific. (Check out <http://spontoon.rootoon.com>) Perfect for the convention theme, wouldn't you say? Current plans for the Programming activities at Califur One include a furry Cabaret (a Southern California furry tradition!), a brand new Pet Auction, musical guests you won't want to miss, artistic how-to sessions, live reptiles (and other critters), a Fur Suit Dance and an outdoor DDR competition, The Good Time Story Hour, our own Califur Luau, and much much more.



< Image c. 2005, CaliFur >

Membership in CaliFur One is available for **\$40.00** until May 1, 2005, and for **\$45.00** thereafter at the door. Advanced memberships – with increasing perks and increasing prestige – are available at Sponsor, Patron, and Benefactor levels for **\$60.00**, **\$120.00**, and **\$1000.00**, respectively. Make sure to visit the web site to find out more!

Rooms at the Holiday Inn Costa Mesa are available for **\$99.00** per night (single to quad), with suites available for **\$175.00** per night. The hotel is located at 3131 S.

Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California, 92626 (right off the 405/San Diego Freeway). Call 800-221-7220 for reservations (the booking code is "2CCC"), or else visit them on line at <http://www.hicostamesa.com> (where the booking code is just "CCC"). And keep in touch with the latest on CaliFur One by visiting their web site at www.calfur.com.

Rocket City Fur Meet

Furries... in... SPACE! High Tech meets Furry Madness! May 27 — 29, 2005, in Huntsville, Alabama. The Guest of Honor for this on-the-move furry gathering are **2 (The Ranting Gryphon), StickDevil ("Combat Artist"), and Babs Bunny** (furry artist and Duran Duran fan!). It all takes place at the Radisson Suites Hotel (6000 South Memorial Parkway, Huntsville, AL). **Room Rates** are **\$69.00** per night for up to six in a room. **Attending Memberships** are **\$30.00**, with Supporting Memberships and Sponsorships available too. The Meet's web site is at <http://narf.wereanimal.net>, or you can write to them care of: Ken Barnes, Attn: RCFM, 5041 Galaxy Way #210, Huntsville, AL 35816.

Don't Forget – It's time to send in Nominations for the Ursa Major Awards for 2004!

More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the Ursa Major Award is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It is intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award ® (presented by the World Science Fiction Society), mystery fandom's Anthony Award, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Award, and so forth.

Anyone may nominate. Nominations for 2004 works are open now. To find out what other fans think might be worth nominating, take a look at the 2004 Recommended Anthropomorphics List (available for viewing at www.ursamajorawards.com). Voting for the 2004 Ursa Major Award will take place during the first half of 2005. Please contact us if you wish to receive a ballot (see below). The Award will be presented at Anthrocon 2005 in Philadelphia in July.

To be eligible, a work must have been released between January 1 and December 31 of the calendar year for that award, and must include a non-human being given human attributes (anthropomorphic), which can be mental and/or physical (for example the intelligent rabbits in *Watership Down* for the former, and Bugs Bunny for the latter.) Simply including an animal character is not sufficient to qualify. Nominations are not limited to items included on the Recommended Anthropomorphics List, which are simply some people's recommendations. Any works first published during the year under consideration are eligible. The Ursa Major Award categories include Best Anthropomorphic: Motion Picture, Dramatic Short Work or Series, Novel, Short Fiction, Other Literary Work (such as short story collections or art portfolio books, etc.), Comic Book, Comic Strip (paper or on-line), Fanzine, Published Illustration, Game (FRP or video), and Miscellany (items that don't fit elsewhere, such as toys or models, etc.).

To find out more about the Ursa Major Award Nominations for 2004, visit the web site, or send an SASE to: Ursa Major Award, c/o Fred Patten, 11863 West Jefferson Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90230-6322, U.S.A.

That's all for this ish, fishes. Our next issue will come bouncing to you in April of 2005, when the Spring has sprung. So look for us then! Keep up with the World Wide Furry Movement here in the pages of In-Fur-Nation!



< Image c. 2005, CaliFur >



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